

Brianna Altieri- Teacher Central High School- Bridgeport

In opposition to HB 5078

The discussion surrounding the Common Core Standards should not be “if” they should be implemented, but instead “how” they should be implemented. The Common Core standards guide students to think deeply about complex text, think critically and synthesize information. Creating higher expectations for students is necessary; especially since Connecticut is the state with the biggest opportunity gap between high and low income students. However, there needs to be extensive professional development available for every teacher to ensure they are supported to correctly and completely make the shifts to the new standards. The Common Core won’t happen instantly, for it to be successful, we need to invest in informing all stakeholders about the new standards– principals, teachers, families and students. The implementation needs to be methodical and transparent, so everyone understands what the Common Core looks like and means for our students. Instead of focusing on if we should continue the transition to common core standards, we should focus on how.

-Brianna Altieri, High School English Teacher, Bridgeport Public Schools